

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 14764 160843Z
ACTION EA-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE VISIT BY US TEAM TO JAPAN TO DISCUSS
LIGHTER THAN AIR (LTA) TECHNOLOGY; INFORMATION AND
RECOMMENDATION CONCERNING

NAVAIRSYSCOM FOR NAVAIR 03P3A
ONR FOR CODES 211, 200, 100B, 102, 102D1, 400, 430, 438
NASA FOR MR. NORMAN J. MAYER

1. ATTENTION MR. R. H. KRIDA, NAVAIR CODE NAVAIR 03P3A.
THIS MESSAGE HAS BEEN PREPARED FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND
TO SUMMARIZE INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH/VIA MR. DAVID S.
SIEGEL, ONR CODE 211.

2. BACKGROUND. DURING THE PAST NINE MONTHS ONR-TOKYO
HAS COMMUNICATED VARIOUS ITEMS OF INFORMATION CONCERNING
JAPANESE LIGHTER THAN AIR (LTA) TECHNOLOGY TO
NAVAIR, ONR AND OTHERS IN USG. THE JAPANESE ACTIVITY
HAS BEEN SUFFICIENT TO GENERATE US INTEREST AND RECENTLY
THE POSSIBILITY OF A VISIT TO JAPAN BY A US TEAM HAS
BEEN INFORMALLY RAISED. THE TEAM WOULD ENGAGE IN
UNCLASSIFIED DISCUSSIONS TO IMPROVE UNDERSTANDING OF
CURRENT LTA ACTIVITY IN THE US AND JAPAN. VISIT WOULD
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PAGE 02 TOKYO 14764 160843Z

BE IN SEPT-OCT'78.

3. ONR-TOKYO RECOMMENDS THAT THE SUBJECT VISIT. TAKE
PLACE AND THAT THE TEAM INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVES FROM
NAVAIR, ONR AND NASA.

4. THE FOLLOWING STRAWMAN ITINERARY HAS BEEN PREPARED

BY ONR-TOKYO AND HAS BEEN INFORMALLY DISCUSSED WITH MR. KAZUMASA IINUMA OF THE JAPAN BOUYANT FLIGHT ASSOCIATION (JBFA). NOTHING IS FORMALIZED OR COMMITTED ON THIS ITINERARY. IT IS PROVIDED AS A SAMPLE, FOR DISCUSSIONS LEADING TOWARD AN ACTUAL ITINERARY:

- FIRST DAY AM: DISCUSSIONS WITH IINUMA
- FIRST DAY PM: DISCUSSIONS WITH IINUMA, KIMURA AND NICHIBORI AND OFFICIALS OF JBFA
- SECOND DAY AM: INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF JAPAN MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY (MITI)
- SECOND DAY PM: VISIT INSTITUTE OF SPACE AND AERONAUTICAL SCIENCES, TOKYO UNIVERSITY (PROF. A. AZUMA)
- THIRD DAY: VISIT HITACHI LTA SECTION (LOGISTICS REQUIRES FULL DAY)
- FOURTH DAY AM: VISIT MITSUBISHI HEAVY INDUSTRIES (HEAVY PAYLOAD LTA)
- FOURTH DAY PM: VISIT KAWASAKI HEAVY INDUSTRIES (HEAVY PAYLOAD LTA)
- FIFTH DAY VISIT ELECTRIC POWER COMPANIES WHO ARE SEEKING LTA FOR REMOTE SITE
- INSTALLATION OF HEAVY EQUIPMENT.
- END OF STRAWMAN ITINERARY.

5. IN THE INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH IINUMA, HE INDICATED UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 TOKYO 14764 160843Z

WILLINGNESS TO ASSIST IN ARRANGING THE ACTUAL ITINERARY IF THE TEAM VISIT MATERIALIZES. IINUMA REITERATED HIS PREVIOUSLY EXPRESSED DESIRE TO HAVE A US GROUP COME TO JAPAN, POSSIBLY IN SPRING 1979 TO PARTICIPATE IN A JOINT US-JAPAN SYMPOSIUM ON LTA TECHNOLOGY. IINUMA IS HOPEFUL THAT THE PRESENT PROPOSED VISIT DOES NOT EXCLUDE THE LATER SYMPOSIUM POSSIBILITY.

6. IF THE SEPT-OCT 1978 VISIT OCCURS IINUMA CONSIDERS IT HIGHLY DESIREABLE THAT SOME OF THE TEAM MEMBERS BE WILLING TO DISCUSS US LTA TECHNOLOGY SO THAT THE DISCUSSIONS ARE MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL. THIS WILL BE OF CONSIDERABLE ASSISTANCE TO HIM IN ARRANGING THE ITINERARY.

7. IINUMA CONSIDER THAT THERE IS A STRONG CHANCE THAT A JAPANESE TEAM COULD BE ASSEMBLED TO VISIT THE USA FOR DISCUSSIONS ON LTA TECHNOLOGY. IN A LIMITED SENSE THIS WOULD BE A RECIPROCAL VISIT.

8. AT THIS TIME, ONR-TOKYO CONSIDERS THAT NAVAIR HAS THE ACTION ON THIS MATTER. IF A FIRM DECISION IS MADE

FOR THE TEAM TO COME TO JAPAN, A DESIRED ITINERARY IS
AGREED UPON BY THE TEAM, AND FIRM DATES FOR TRAVEL ARE
ESTABLISHED, THEN ONR-TOKYO WILL INFORM IINUMA SO THAT
EFFORTS CAN GET STARTED TO SET UP THE ITINERARY.
ONR-TOKYO SENDS. MANSFIELD

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